

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER, ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MARCH, 1982

82-3

THE BALL SITE

RECENT DISCOVERIES ON A MAJOR HURON VILLAGE

Dr. Dean Knight of Wilfred Laurier University has completed his seventh season of excavation on a c. 1600 A.D. Huron village in Medonte Township, Simcoe County. Almost one half of this roughly two hectare site has been cleared and 31 houses have been totally excavated! This project has provided a uniquely comprehensive look at Huron village life in the early seventeenth century.

All Chapter members and friends are invited to come and enjoy this entertaining presentation at 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 11 at the Museum of Indian Archaeology.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

The February 24 meeting in London was attended by all members of our Chapter executive. Discussions centered around publication of the 1980 Symposium papers and our fall bus tour to Ohio. Details concerning the latter are presented on the last page of this newsletter. Several members of our executive hope to meet shortly with the Society executive in Toronto to discuss publication of the Lake Erie Symposium volume.

Other matters considered were future speakers, transportation to the Canadian Archaeological Association meetings to be held in Hamilton between April 29 and May 2, and the London archaeological survey. Anyone who will be driving to the C.A.A. meetings and has room for others, or who would like a ride should contact Paul Lennox at 438-9595. Regarding the London Chapter O.A.S. - Museum of Indian Archaeology City of London archaeological survey, Jim Keron indicated that he had drafted a letter of support for the Museum's grant application.

SOCIAL REPORT

Chapter members who attended last month's McMaster Symposium felt that the event had been educational, if not entertaining! For some, it was their first opportunity to experience some of the better known names in Ontario archaeology.

Our Tuesday evening lab. sessions have been well attended of late and processing of the Harrietsville artifacts is progressing rapidly. The Chapter excavations produced an interesting variety of diagnostic material, including a surprising abundance of Parker Festooned ceramics. A 190 litre soil sample was obtained last summer from Midden 1 and processed

using a SMAP flotation device this winter. Sorting of the residue has produced an abundance of faunal and carbonized botanical remains. Rudy Fecteau kindly agreed to inspect the botanical material and has identified the following: numerous corn kernels, cupules and stalk fragments, two bean lobes, two sunflower seeds, a wild plum pit, as well as raspberry, elderberry and strawberry seeds.

Congratulations to the newest O.A.S. Chapter! The Grand River/Waterloo Chapter will be receiving their charter on March 16 at J.F. Ross School in Guelph. Meeting time is 7:30 P.M. J.F. Ross School is located at 20 Meyer Drive and the presentation ceremonies will be in Room 209. All London Chapter members are invited to attend.

EDGE SERRATION : A PROTO-HISTORIC/HISTORIC IROQUOIAN TOOL ATTRIBUTE

WILLIAM A. FOX

Reflecting perhaps the many drastic changes which transpired in Ontario Iroquoian society during the sixteenth century was a widespread transformation in the chipped stone tool kit of these peoples. While some developments, such as the sudden abundance of end scrapers on Neutral and Southern Division Huron villages may reflect European influence through the fur trade, other changes are more difficult to relate to the indirect, yet powerful affects of European activities to the east. Notched bifaces disappear by the end of the century, leaving only triangular forms, and edge serration of chert tools suddenly appears. Not since Early Archaic times had this edge configuration enjoyed such popularity.

As with the Early Archaic application of this edge form, sixteenth and seventeenth century Iroquoian knappers serrated projectile points and knives. However, certain of the Iroquoian groups also serrated delicate flake knives and even end scrapers. The variety of tool forms and edge configurations displaying serration argues that the saw tooth edge was not a uni-functional attribute. Some have suggested the historic period use of serrated edge flakes for cutting red siltstone (Fox, 1980) and whelk shell into ornaments. Experimentation with serrated edge flakes has suggested that some of the delicate Neutral specimens were utilized in working soft material such as leather (Lennox, n.d.).

The earliest recorded serrated edge tools include a small number of end scrapers on the contemporary c.1500 A.D. Lawson and Weiser villages. Neutral assemblages dating to the first half of the sixteenth century with serrated end scrapers include Clearville (1) and McGeachy (2), while the Wolf Creek village excavation produced four serrated edge flakes (G. Foster, pers. comm.).

At c.1500 A.D. or slightly earlier, serrated edge triangular points make their appearance on the McGeachy Neutral village in Chatham. Slightly later, they occur on the Knight-Tucker village near Sheffield and on the Seed village north of Toronto. Serrated points are always a minority form on proto-Historic/Historic Neutral sites; nevertheless, they have been recorded on the Knight-Tucker (3), Fonger (6) (G. Warrick, pers. comm.), Christianson (7), E. Ball (1), Walker (1) and Hamilton (2) villages. Among the Petun, MacMurchy (1), Hamilton-Lougheed (1) and Haney-Cook (2) have produced specimens. Finally, the Historic Huron collections from Santimo (3) and Thompson (2) included serrated triangular points manufactured

* Number of specimens

primarily of Onondaga chert, as well as one Kettle Point chert piece. These points were doubtless obtained from the Neutral or Petun peoples (Fox, 1979).

While serrated edge flakes are common to Neutral village sites (particularly after c.1620 A.D.) and occur on contemporary seventeenth century Petun sites, the only specimen recorded from a Huron village is a coarsely serrated piece from Cahiague with three teeth per centimeter (Fox, 1981). Most Neutral and Petun examples have 4-6 teeth per centimeter. As with serrated edge flakes, serrated end scrapers occur sporadically on sixteenth century Neutral villages and are most abundant after c.1620 A.D. This scraper form is extremely rare on Petun sites and has yet to be recorded on a Huron village.

To summarize the above, serrated edge flakes and end scrapers are recorded for Neutral villages from c.1500 A.D. onward, becoming most popular after c.1620 A.D., when serrated flakes also occur on historic Petun villages. Serrated edge triangular projectile points appear c.1550 A.D. and are found in small quantities on villages of all Ontario Iroquoian groups during the Historic era. The period of greatest popularity among the Neutral is c.1580-1620 A.D.

Serrated edge scrapers first appear among the Seneca of New York in the c.1500-1550 A.D. period, on villages such as California Ranch and Richmond Mills (C. Wray, pers. comm.). They are reported for the subsequent Cameron village, but reach a peak of popularity on c.1600-1630 A.D. sites such as Factory Hollow and Dutch Hollow. Subsequent villages have produced none of these tool forms. Serrated edge points are very rare; however, two were recovered from the c.1600 A.D. Factory Hollow village. While information is not available from other Five Nations tribes, the period during which serrated edge tools occur on Seneca sites is consistent with the Ontario Iroquois chronology.

What all the above data really mean in terms of Iroquoian society as a whole is very difficult to ascertain at this point. Comprehensive wear pattern studies are required in order to determine the exact functions of various serrated edge tool forms and obviously, knowledge of their function is a prerequisite to an understanding of their place in Iroquoian life. The earliest examples occur among the western Neutral and adjacent groups to the west; however, little published information exists defining any earlier prehistoric distribution of such tools among groups to the south and west of Southwestern Ontario. Certainly, serrated edge triangular points are well documented on Mississippian sites such as Cahokia, but whether the edge serration attribute among the Iroquois resulted from later Mississippian influences is impossible to determine at present.

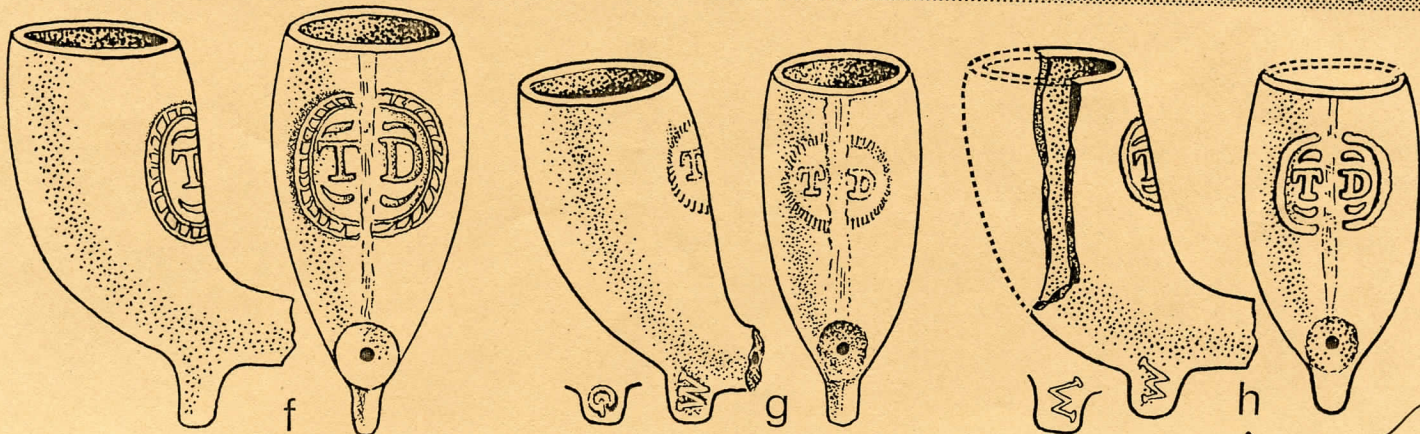
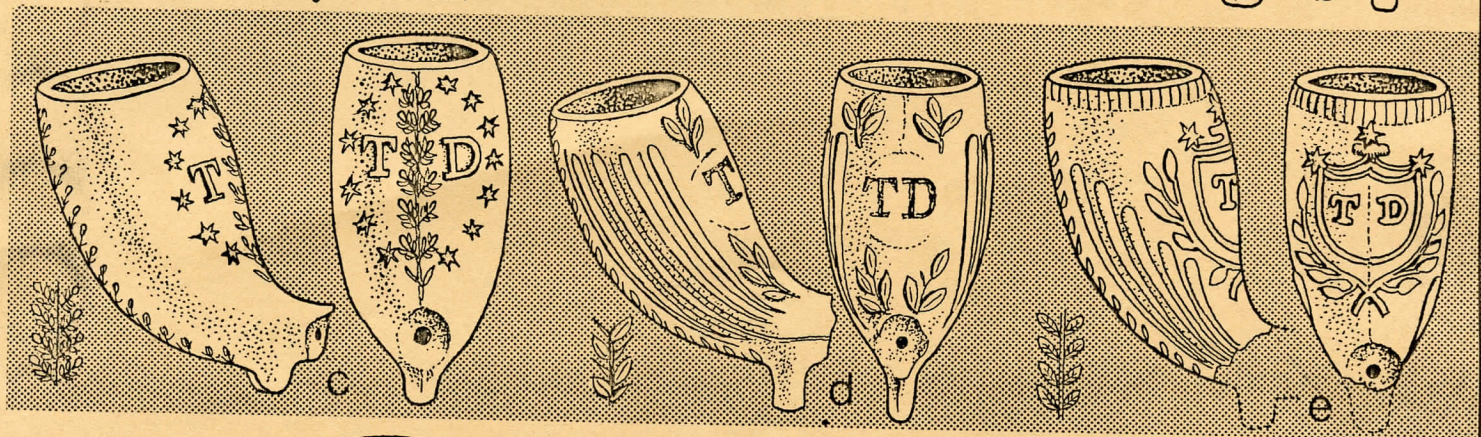
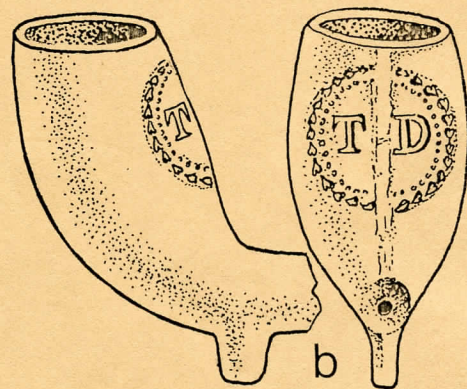
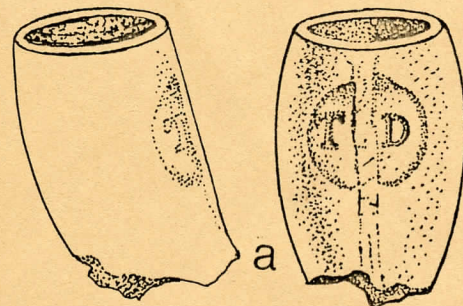
Once edge serration became established at or shortly before 1500 A.D. this technological/stylistic innovation was rapidly and widely embraced by the chert knappers of a variety of Iroquoian tribes. It appears to have been most popular among the Ontario Iroquois from c. 1615-20 A.D. until the time of their dispersal in the mid-seventeenth century.

NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

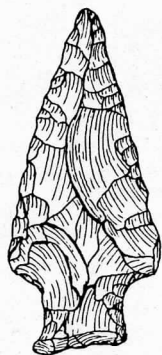
"FANCY" TD CLAY TOBACCO PIPES PART I

THOMAS KENYON

In 1896, William Bâby reminisced: "On a sultry evening in...1864, I was seated on my veranda in Sandwich, watching the vapors from my favorite T.D. pipe as they gently ascended and assumed various forms..." Many others must have had similar memories for pipes bearing the letters "TD" are perhaps the commonest style of decorated clay pipe found on 19th C. sites in Canada and the U.S. In the 18th, 19th and 20th C., TD's were made in numerous styles by pipemakers in England, Scotland, Holland, Germany, Canada and probably France and the U.S.A. Iain Walker (1970) writes: "First manufactured about 1755 by a maker with these initials, this pipe became so popular that other makers soon pirated these letters which became a sort of trade mark." Illustrated here are (a to h) TD pipes with added embellishments; all the specimens are from (approximately) dated sites in Brant and Haldimand Co., although duplicates of these are found elsewhere in Canada and the U.S. (a) TD in circle, impressed, Hunter's Well, 1825-40. (b) TD and border impressed, Anthony's Mills, 1825-40. (c) TD, stars and leaves in relief, Mohawk Village, 1830-55. These "13 star patriotic" pipes have been attributed to a c.1812-60 period, but recent research by Dean L. Anderson (1982) indicates a date of c.1845-75. (d) TD impressed, leaves, ribs and mold design in relief, John Young Jr., 1820-60. (e) TD, shield, leaves and ribs in relief, John Croker, 1825-45. (f) TD and border in relief, Dochstader Inn, 1825-55. (g) TD and border impressed, John Young Jr. (h) TD and border in relief, Anthony's Mills.



DEWAELE POINTS



SIZE: These notched bifaces range from 29-59 mm in length, 14-22 mm in width, 4-7 mm in thickness and display inter-notch widths varying from 8 to 16 mm.

SHAPE: Blade edges are convex, while the base can be convex to concave in form. The modal basal edge configuration is convex. Hafting elements vary from side notched to expanding stemmed, depending on the size of notches. A lenticular bi-convex blade cross-section is the norm.

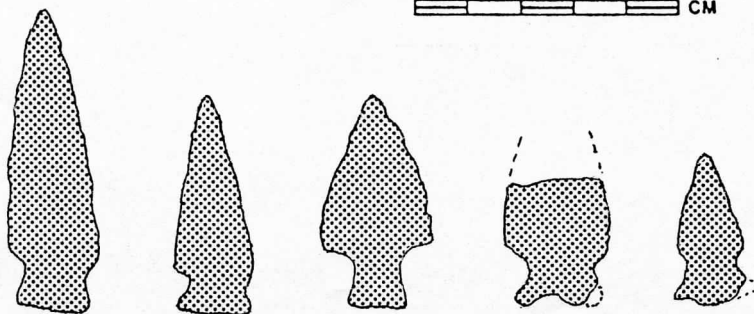
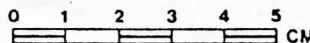
FLAKING: Most DeWaele points are characterized by flat, expanding flake patterns; however, hinged flake terminations are not uncommon. Although complete bifacial retouch obscures the evidence, it does appear likely that these points were manufactured from flake blanks.

RAW MATERIAL: Onondaga chert.

DISTRIBUTION: DeWaele points are found from western Middlesex and Elgin Counties to at least as far east as the Duffins Creek drainage, east of Toronto.

AGE AND CULTURAL AFFILIATIONS: This Glen Meyer point form occurs as a minority type on sites dating from c.850-1250 A.D.

REMARKS: While the origin of the DeWaele point form is obscure (it may have developed out of the earlier "Raccoon side notched" type), there is little doubt that this Iroquoian notched biface evolves into the later Middleport Notched and Naticoke Notched forms. The Onondaga chert DeWaele bifaces have much in common with the Naticoke Notched type, in that they are often reworked as drills and may have had a wider range of functions than contemporary triangular point forms. Similarly, these bifaces were also exported to the east, where they are reported on Pickering villages such as the Miller site.



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Sat. Oct. 9

- OPTIONAL SHOPPING OR
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- LUNCH
- NEWARK EARTHWORKS, FAMOUS HOPEWELL MOUND, STAND ON HALLOWED 'EAGLE MOUND'
- FLINT RIDGE FAMOUS QUARRY SITE AND MUSEUM - PICK UP SOME SAMPLES
- SUPPER
- OVERNITE AT WHEELING

Sun. Oct. 10

- VISIT MOUNDSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA, LARGE NEW MUSEUM, ONE OF LARGEST MOUNDS
- TRIP ALONG SCENIC OHIO RIVER WITH A BACK DROP OF THE WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS
- MARIETTA EARTHWORK TEMPLE MOUNDS
- LUNCH
- SERPENT MOUNDS - MOST FAMOUS EFFIGY MOUND IN NORTH AMERICA
- MOUND CITY - ANOTHER MAJOR HOPEWELL SITE WITH FAMOUS MICA GRAVE 'IN SITU'
- SUPPER
- OVERNITE AT COLUMBUS DAZE INN

Mon. Oct. 11

- UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO - VISIT THE LABORATORIES OF ARCHAEOLOGY
- GUIDED TOUR OF HISTORIC & PREHISTORIC SITES FORT MEIGS, WAR OF 1812 FORT, ALSO FAMOUS INDIAN HILLS

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